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WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, West Dean & Lydney Rural District Councils)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

for the year

1957

West Gloucestershire United District

(EAST DEAN, WEST DEAN AND LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICTS)

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,
COLEFORD, GLOS.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils
of the West Gloucestershire United District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957. I have done my best to prepare this in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I have restricted this Report to the public health functions of the District Councils. I am grateful to the Public Health Inspectors, Surveyors and other officers of the Councils for their contributions to this Report, to Mrs. V. Kendall, my clerk, for her careful work in preparing it and to the care shown by the printers.

I thank the Public Health Inspectors for their loyal support and the other officials of the Councils for their co-operation.

I am grateful to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your support and understanding.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT.

GENERAL ITEMS

Birth and Death Rates Compared

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales ..	16.1	11.5
Gloucestershire	16.4	10.4
Combined Forest Area ..	15.4 (16.2)	10.3 (11.1)
East Dean	16.5 (17.0)	10.2 (11.1)
West Dean	15.2 (15.9)	11.4 (11.7)
Lydney R.D.	13.9 (15.4)	9.1 (10.2)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the "corrected" rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There were two deaths associated with childbirth.

There were 20 deaths during the first year of life (15 male and 5 female), 16 of these were during the first four weeks (12 being male and 4 female). There were 786 live births. There were 530 deaths.

Chief Causes of Death

	Percentage of total deaths
Coronary disease and angina	15.3
Other heart disease	19.6
Other Circulatory disease	3.8
Vascular diseases of the nervous system ..	14.0
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	15.7
Pneumonia	3.6
Bronchitis	3.2
Pneumoconiosis (14 deaths)	2.6
Accidents	4.0

The first four causes are largely due to the degeneration in the arteries which sets in in middle life. This is the greatest cause of death, comparatively few people dying of senility. Deaths from coronary disease especially have increased considerably. This arterial degeneration with high blood pressure has been attributed to the stress of modern living but I would blame a too high a standard of feeding in middle life especially of fat foods and too much salt. It is known that an excess of Vitamin D causes hardening of the arteries. I fail to see why stress should be greater today with the security given by the State compared with the low wages, unemployment and infectious disease with which previous generations had to cope. Much research is being directed towards this disease and the result may be that changes in our diet will be vital.

Tuberculosis which caused 7.4% of deaths in 1913 according to Surgeon Captain Andrews' first report accounted last year for less than 0.4% and other infectious disease which accounted for 6% in 1913 last year accounted for no deaths except the ten due to influenza.

Cancer and other malignant neoplasms which accounted for 8.6% of the deaths now accounts for nearly double this proportion, but much can be done in the prevention and cure of this disease. Familiarity with the signs and symptoms so that treatment may be obtained early is most important. Cigarette smoking has been proved to be the largest factor in the causation of lung cancer.

Cancer of the tongue and gullet are fortunately decreasing and cancer of the stomach is decreasing in the United States.

The following table shows a decrease in the number of deaths compared with the previous year (102 deaths), but such a fluctuation is to be expected in such relatively small figures.

Cancer Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	3	3	6
Lung and Bronchus ..	9	1	10
Breast	—	13	13
Uterus	—	6	6
Other	28	18	46
Leukemia	—	2	2
	—	—	—
	40	43	83
	—	—	—

National Assistance Act 1946, Section 48 and National Assistance Amendment Act 1951.

No legal action was taken to remove anyone living in insanitary conditions and who were unable to look after themselves and not receiving proper care and attention. In one case in the Lydney R.D. where such action was considered, the Home Help Service managed to cope with the case. This Service greatly reduces the number of cases in which compulsory removal is required.

Anthrax Order 1938.

No notifications were received under this Order during the year.

Fluoride Content of Water Supplies and Healthy Teeth.

Much publicity has now been given to the importance of the fluoride content of drinking water for the development of sound teeth.

It is now 25 years since it was noticed that the teeth of the children at Maldon in Essex were remarkably good and the natural water supply contained 4.5 to 5.5. parts per million of fluorine. It was noticed also that at South Shields where the water contained 1.4 parts per million of fluorine the children had much less dental caries than at North Shields where the water contained only 0.25 parts per million.

In the United States and in many other countries the amount of fluorine has been adjusted to 1 part per million with the result that dental caries has been greatly reduced. There has been no scientific evidence of any undesirable effect. In this country there are four demonstration areas:—Andover, Anglesey, Kilmarnock and Watford.

Although children are now much better nourished it is unfortunate that their teeth are at least as bad as in previous generations.

The large amount of sweets now eaten has a damaging effect on teeth. The noticeable improvement that the wartime shortage of sweets had on children's teeth has now passed.

Regular brushing of the teeth to remove food debris in which decay causing bacteria growth is of great importance. Regular attention by a dentist is important.

Vitamin D in cod liver oil or in concentrated form, Vitamin C of fruit and milk for its calcium are important when given to the expectant mother and young child for the healthy growth of bone as well as of teeth.

In spite of all such care it is most disappointing that tooth decay often spreads apace, and this is because the person does not get the trace of fluorine that is essential for the growth of healthy teeth.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government carried out a survey to ascertain the number of people in England who are supplied with drinking water of various fluorine contents. For this, full chemical analyses were done of the raw water of the main sources in the area and the results are given in the table.

It will be seen that in none of the sources used in the area is an effective amount of fluorine present. One part per million is required.

Water Analyses

		Greenbottom Supply 5/11/57	Springs Blakeney 5/11/57	Limekiln Pool Springs 16/9/57	Redbrook Springs 18/9/57	Ferneyley Springs 18/11/57	Borehole Aylesmore 18/11/57
General Chemical Examination (parts per million)							
Free Carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	..	5.7	7.0	11.0	11.4	4.5	10.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	..	—	—	0.01	—	—	—
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	..	—	—	0.02	—	—	0.01
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitric Nitrogen, as N,	..	2.18	1.02	2.08	2.41	2.57	1.42
Hardness, as CaCO ₃ (E.D.T.A. test)	..						
Temporary	..	158	136	180	221	123	180
Permanent	..	82	104	106	109	61	78
Permanganate figure (4 hours, 80°F.) as O	..	0.094	0.057	0.06	0.30	0.077	0.073
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	..	176	184	244	276	130	238
Total Solids	..	244	248	316	442	188	270
Mineral Analysis	..						
Calcium, as Ca	..	59	50	58	70	38	54
Magnesium, as Mg	..	22	28	34	38	21	30
Sodium, as Na	..	4	6	8	7	8	11
Carbonate, as CO ₃	..	106	110	146	166	78	143
Chloride, as Cl	..	12	13	13	15	15	11
Sulphate, as SO ₄	..	39	35	30	26	19	20
Nitrate, as NO ₃	..	10	5	9	11	11	6
Iron	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fluoride, as F	..	0.06	—	0.04	0.06	0.04	—
Reaction pH	..	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.3	7.8	7.8
Physical, All samples were clear, colourless and odourless							

Notifications of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases.

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Polio- myelitis	Tuberculosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Registers)
Cinderford ..	377	34	3	2	4	75
Drybrook	131	33	2	1	2	41
Ruspidge	38	3	2	—	1	24
Awre	10	4	1	—	—	13
Mitcheldean ..	21	5	1	—	3	23
Littledean	12	—	1	1	—	10
Longhope	16	—	—	—	1	18
Ruardean	70	6	—	—	4	12
Churcham	33	2	—	—	—	6
Huntley	2	—	—	—	—	1
Blaisdon	1	—	—	—	—	1
MALE	356	37	5	2	10	114
FEMALE	355	50	5	2	5	110
TOTAL ..	711	87	10	4	15	224
Bream	135	40	—	1	1	25
Ellwood	11	1	1	—	1	3
Broadwell	40	—	—	—	2	19
Berry Hill	50	7	—	—	1	21
Milkwall	10	3	—	—	—	4
Pillowell	3	2	—	—	—	7
Whitecroft	12	4	—	—	1	12
Parkend	2	2	—	—	—	2
Yorkley	2	4	2	—	—	17
Viney Hill	1	1	—	—	1	3
Coleford	97	6	—	—	2	27
English Bicknor	29	2	—	—	—	—
Lydbrook	29	4	2	—	—	25
Joys Green	58	2	1	—	—	16
Clearwell	7	1	—	—	—	4
Redbrook	—	—	—	—	1	3
Staunton	7	—	—	—	—	1
MALE	267	46	5	—	7	116
FEMALE	226	33	1	1	3	73
TOTAL ..	493	79	6	1	10	189
Lydney	184	2	4	—	3	34
Tidenham	2	—	1	1	1	21
St. Briavels ..	4	5	—	—	1	11
Aylburton	58	—	4	—	—	4
Woolaston	1	—	—	—	—	3
Hewelsfield ..	1	1	—	—	—	3
Alvington	4	—	—	—	—	6
MALE	132	2	7	—	2	43
FEMALE	122	6	2	1	3	39
TOTAL ..	254	8	9	1	5	82
Grand Total Male	755	85	17	2	19	273
„ „ Female	703	89	8	4	11	222
TOTAL ..	1458	174	25	6	30	495

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles.

1,458 cases were notified during the year. The epidemic was mostly during the first five months of the year with a peak at the end of March. At Cinderford the epidemic commenced at the end of the previous year and subsided during February but reached another peak towards the end of March. Bream was more affected during May, Drybrook in July and most of the Coleford, Berry Hill and Bicknor cases occurred during the last quarter of the year. Churcham was not affected until December. The peak age of infection was just before the sixth birthday.

Whooping Cough.

There was an epidemic at Bream during August, September and October. The cases at Cinderford and Drybrook and elsewhere were scattered throughout the year. The total number of cases was 87 compared with 28 in 1956.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 25 cases were notified. These were mild and scattered.

Diphtheria.

For the ninth year in succession there has been no case of this disease. The vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis might have been expected to have replaced to some extent that against diphtheria; the reverse proved however to be the case, the popularity of protection against poliomyelitis appeared to remind parents of the necessity to protect against this disease.

Dysentery.

There was an epidemic at Churcham in the first part of the year, most of the cases arising during March. This was widespread in this parish and affected most of the people on the Lake Lane Caravan Site. The notifications of many of the cases were late.

The Public Health Inspector collected specimens from cases to confirm the diagnosis and to follow up their infectivity. He also instructed on the importance of personal cleanliness. There were a number of cases of dysentery at Cinderford during April.

Altogether 27 notifications were received and in 20 the diagnosis confirmed the infecting organism being of the Sonne type.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were 11 notifications. One rise of temperature to 100.4 deg.F. or more in a woman within 14 days of the birth of her child is notifiable.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.

There were 12 notifications, 9 of these were during the last quarter of the year.

Influenza.

An epidemic of this disease arose simultaneously in all parts of the area during the third week in September. It reached its peak during the first week in October and was almost over by the end of the month. The new claims to sickness benefit rose from 108 during the second week in September to 1,009 during the first week in October. Ten deaths, mostly in elderly people, were ascribed to this epidemic.

Erysipelas.

There were 5 notifications of this disease.

Meningococcal meningitis.

There was one notification of this disease in a baby of 4 months. A complete recovery was obtained.

Food Poisoning.

Five notifications were received of suspected cases in the East Dean R.D. In none of these cases was the diagnosis confirmed.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred at the Army Apprentices' School, Beachley Camp, on the night of November 26th/27th. Affected persons began to be taken ill at 9.0 p.m. on the 26th November, and by 6.0 a.m. most of those affected had been taken ill. 89 persons were affected, nearly all being apprentices. Symptoms were mild, abdominal discomfort, some vomiting or nausea and/or diarrhoea in most cases. This outbreak was not notified to me until the 3rd December, the investigations having been done by the D.A.D.A.H. It appears that the outbreak was due to sausage meat. This had been stored in the large electric refrigerator provided but unfortunately this had been cut off at night because it interfered with television reception.

Poliomyelitis.

There were six known cases during the year.

- (i) A girl aged 11 who was on holiday in Cinderford from Devon was taken ill on the 28th August. She was admitted to the City General Hospital on the 2nd September, and removed to Over Isolation Hospital on the 3rd as she developed paralysis in the legs. She was sent on to Ham Green Hospital on the 4th as she was developing respiratory paralysis. She improved considerably.
- (ii) A girl aged 8 at Tutshill was taken ill on the 2nd September, with paralysis in one leg. She was sent to Over Isolation Hospital the same day. There was some residual paralysis.

- (iii) A girl aged 17 at Littledean was taken ill on the 15th September, and was sent to Over Isolation Hospital. I was informed by the hospital the same day. It was important to exclude her mother from work as she was a cook. The girl herself worked at a food factory. She improved considerably.
- (iv) A young man aged 22 and working at the same food factory was taken ill with meningeal signs on the 19th September. No paralysis developed.
- (v) A married woman of 25 and mother of three young children living at Bream was taken ill on the 8th October, during the influenza epidemic. She developed paralysis on the 12th and was admitted to Over Isolation Hospital. She was sent on to Ham Green Hospital next day as she developed respiratory paralysis. She was extensively paralysed but improved slowly.
- (vi) A boy aged 5 living at Ruardean Woodside was taken ill on the 8th November, and developed paralysis on the 11th. He was sent to see a pediatrician on the 20th who admitted him to the City General Hospital the same day. This case was not notified until the 12th December, and after I had heard of the case and asked for the notification.

The prescribed precautions were carried out in these cases as far as possible. The delay in notification in case (vi) made this difficult. The occurrence of two cases at a food factory caused concern.

Case (i) had been in the district and near Cheltenham for the period in which she must have been infected. Case (iii) had been in contact with many people during the time she was infected. No direct link could be found with case (i). Case (iv) worked at the same factory as case (iii) but the dates of onset were too close for him to have been infected from her. Case (v) had a close friend whose brother worked at the same food factory as cases (iii) and (iv). Case (ii) was not connected with these cases but was probably related to two cases in the Chepstow area. Case (vi) could not be linked with the other cases.

I hope that the incidence of this disease will be reduced now that vaccination is being done on a large scale.

Tuberculosis.

There were only 30 new cases notified during the year compared with 42 in 1956. There were only 2 deaths from this disease compared with 9 in 1956. At the end of the year there were 495 cases on the registers of the three Districts.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the factories at Lydbrook in January when 854 persons were examined and one active case and two inactive cases were discovered. In September the Unit visited Mitcheldean when 522 persons were examined, no cases of tuberculosis were found but 7 other abnormal conditions were found. I am sorry that it was not possible for the Unit to visit the three main towns of the Area during the year.

The fight against this infectious disease is now most successful due largely to the availability of effective drugs, but the lack of intelligent co-operation on the part of some infected persons is unfortunate.

The B.C.G. Vaccination offered to 13 year olds at the Senior Schools is important. It is interesting that the proportion of children in this age group found to have been already infected dropped from 20.7% in 1956 to 17.5%.

Notifications during the Year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean ..	6	5	4	—	15
West Dean ..	6	2	1	1	10
Lydney R.D. ..	2	3	—	—	5
TOTALS ..	14	10	5	1	30

Cases on Registers at the end of the Year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean ..	102	91	12	19	224
West Dean ..	99	60	17	13	189
Lydney R.D. ..	37	35	6	4	82
TOTALS ..	238	186	35	36	495

CAUSES OF DEATH	East Dean			West Dean			Lydney R.D.			Forest Area		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other forms of tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ..	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	3
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	22	13	35	10	22	32	8	8	16	40	43	83
Diabetes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular diseases of the nervous system	10	15	25	12	18	30	13	6	19	35	39	74
Coronary disease and angina ..	29	11	40	11	14	25	13	3	16	53	28	81
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	—	2	2	1	3	1	3	4	5	4	9
Other heart disease ..	14	12	26	21	25	46	12	11	23	47	48	95
Other circulatory disease ..	4	5	9	3	4	7	4	—	4	11	9	20
Influenza ..	3	1	4	1	4	5	—	1	1	4	6	10
Pneumonia ..	5	3	8	3	4	7	2	2	4	10	9	19
Bronchitis ..	3	2	5	4	2	6	3	3	6	10	7	17
Other diseases of the respiratory system	11	1	12	11	2	13	1	—	1	23	3	26
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	3	1	4	—	—	—	2	—	2	5	1	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of the prostate ..	3	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	6	—	6
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Congenital malformations ..	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	4	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	8	23	10	5	15	5	4	9	30	17	47
Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	4
All other accidents ..	5	1	6	4	1	5	4	2	6	13	4	17
Suicide ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	135	78	213	97	108	205	68	44	112	300	230	530

EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health
Inspector: A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health
Inspector: B. G. RISBEY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator: C. BARNARD

Statistics.

Population=20,830 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1957).

Area=30,475 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,375.

Rateable Value on the 31st March, 1957 was £134,377.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 1st April, 1957 was £535. 14. 8d.

Number of Live Births=343. Number of Deaths=213. Excess of Births over Deaths=130.

Birth Rate=16.5 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives a corrected rate of 17.0.

Death Rate=10.2 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.09 this gives a corrected rate of 11.1.

Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	169	162	331	4	8	12	173	170	343
Still Births	2	6	8	—	—	—	2	6	8
Deaths of infants under 1 year	8	1	9	—	—	—	8	1	9
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	5	—	5	—	—	—	5	—	5

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply.

PARISH	Estimated Population	No. of Dwellings	No. of Caravans	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
				(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Cinderford	7,093	2,175	5	2,171	—
Drybrook ..	2,830	866	6	886	—
Mitcheldean	1,983	608	3	520	10
Ruspidge ..	1,941	591	11	555	—
Awre ..	1,775	544	1	440	—
Littledean ..	1,355	415	2	362	—
Longhope ..	1,098	333	7	28	—
Ruardean ..	1,241	381	1	326	—
Churcham ..	742	225	3	94	—
Huntley ..	495	152	—	93	—
Blaisdon ..	277	85	—	24	—
TOTALS ..	20,830	6,375	39	5,499	10

I have to thank the Rating Officer for the number of dwellings and the Surveyor for the number of water connections except those of the Churcham and Huntley parishes which were supplied by the Gloucester City Water Engineer.

The population estimates are made by apportioning the Registrar General's estimate for the Rural District according to the number of dwellings.

Housing Progress.

I am grateful to Mr. L. A. Andrews, D.P.A., the Housing Officer, for the following information:—

PARISH	1957	Council Houses		Total
		Pre-War	Post-War including 1957	
Cinderford ..	—	80	256	336
Drybrook ..	14	6	111	117
Ruspidge ..	—	26	73	99
Awre ..	—	—	36	36
Mitcheldean .	—	6	114	120
Littledean ..	—	—	63	63
Longhope ..	—	6	24	30
Ruardean ..	—	10	57	67
Churcham ..	—	—	12	12
Huntley ..	—	—	8	8
Blaisdon ..	—	—	—	—
	14	134	754	888

The only houses built during the year were 14 Unity houses at Drybrook.

Houses being built at the end of the year:—Nil.

Private Houses.

A total of 49 houses and bungalows were built privately during the year, making a total of 298 since 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. A. D. Parsons reports as follows:—..

Drainage.

The amount of work, advice and inspections of drainage and sewerage work still continues to take up a considerable amount of time, especially where new sewers and extensions to sewers are being laid. The Ministry permitted, after holding the usual Inquiry, extensions to be made to the new sewerage system at Blakeney and the work was commenced before the end of the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The arrangements made with contractors for the collection of refuse for all the parishes except Cinderford continued to work satisfactorily and economically. The collection at Plump Hill is to be extended.

Dirty Premises and Pest Control.

There were several treatments to dirty premises and numerous treatments were given for pests which included fleas, flies, crickets, cockroaches, bed bugs, moles and bats.

Moveable Dwellings.

Number of licences for dwellings granted 31
(22 of these had been licensed before)

Number of site licences 3

One of the sites licensed was for six caravans and was at Wye-side, Ruardean.

The Council took legal action against a farmer at Churcham for allowing an unlicensed site to be used. A licence for this site had been refused.

Brooks and Streams.

From time to time investigations were made in respect of streams and the nuisances remedied where possible.

Pet Animal Act 1951.

The only pet shop in the district was given a renewal licence and the shop continued to be run satisfactorily.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

Regular inspections were made of the sites where carcasses were buried in 1956 and samples were taken of the water from a stream which comes from one of the pitshafts used for burial.

Dangerous Buildings (Public Health Act, Sect. 58).

Two dangerous buildings were dealt with and the dangers removed after long delays.

Dangerous Pitshafts.

Numerous complaints were dealt with concerning pitshafts. The Deputy Gaveller's officer was most helpful in attending to those that concerned him. A dangerous quarry was also dealt with.

Housing.

During the year there were many enquiries concerning Land Charges, and frequently the lower category property involved required inspection as the Housing Survey had been discontinued and the information available in respect of some of the properties was not up-to-date. There were many enquiries by intending purchasers as to the condition of properties and as to whether they were included in the Slum Clearance Proposals.

Under the Housing Acts, the Medical Officer of Health made Representations that twenty-one individual houses were unfit for human habitation and could not be made fit at reasonable expense. These and two properties which had been represented previously were considered by the Council.

Demolition Orders made	.. .. .	8
Closing Orders (i) Under Section 12 Housing Act 1936	..	1
(ii) Under Section 10 Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.)		
Act 1953	.. .. .	2
Undertakings accepted (i) not to use house for human habitation	.. .. .	2
(ii) to render house fit	.. .. .	6
Consideration deferred	.. .. .	4

In the cases of several condemned properties the Council required the windows to be removed to prevent them being re-occupied before they could be demolished.

The Rent Act, 1957, came into operation and much time was spent advising both owners and tenants on procedure. A free booklet on the Act was issued.

Factories.

Number of visits and inspections	..	..	..	..	28
Number of factories on register	..	..	..	..	85
Number of Means of Escape in case of Fire Certificates issued	..	..	..	..	1

Water Supply.

Twenty-seven samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport for bacteriological examination. Three samples from the Greenbottom sources were sent to the University of Bristol for chemical examination on the 5th June. These were satisfactory. Subsequently the Ministry of Health requested reports of chemical analyses especially for fluoride content.

The water main was extended over Wigpool and the majority of the properties there were connected. The previous supply which was intermittent and unreliable was from a standpipe.

A survey was made of the Flaxley area with a view to extending the water mains to it.

It was necessary to serve five notices under the Water Act 1945 requiring the owner to connect to the Council's mains where the existing supplies were unsatisfactory.

The number of samples taken during this year is much lower. This is because the laboratory staff could no longer collect them from the Newport station and they had therefore to be delivered.

Milk and Dairies.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of registered distributors	..	..	..	..	23
Number of registered dairies	..	..	..	..	8

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949—54.

Licences granted authorising the use of the special designation Pasteurised Milk.

(i) dealers	..	..	..	..	..	16
(ii) supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949—54.

Licences granted authorising the use of the special designation Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(i) dealers	..	..	..	..	..	11
(ii) supplementary	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of milk samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	5

Ice Cream.

Premises Registered under the Heat Treatment Regulations 80

Of these only four manufactured ice cream and these used the cold-mix method. The others sold prepacked ice cream.

Eight samples of various makes were collected and taken to the Public Health Laboratory for grading by the Methylene Blue Test. All were Grade 1.

Food and Drugs Act.

Dried egg albumen. In view of the tracing of cases of food poisoning elsewhere to this substance samples were taken and examined for Salmonellae. No such contaminating bacteria were found.

Mobile shops are becoming increasingly popular. Whenever possible these are inspected.

Foods Condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse).

Flour	..	..	..	280 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	114 „
Oats	..	..	..	48 „
Beef	..	..	..	33 „
Chocolate	..	..	..	16 „
Fish	..	..	..	14 „
Beef Sausage		..	..	4 „
Vegetables	..	..	..	189 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	68 „
Milk	..	..	..	48 „
Stewed Steak		..	..	24 „
Corned Beef		..	..	23 „
Pork Luncheon Meat			..	19 „
Fish	..	..	..	10 „
Sheep Tongues		..	..	2 „
Ham	..	..	..	2 „
Minced Beef Loaf	..	..		1 „
Spaghetti	..	..	..	1 „
Nescafe	..	..	..	1 „
Milo	..	..	..	1 „

Rodent Control.

Number of properties in Local Authority's District 7,057.

			inspected	infested with	
				rats	mice
Business premises	..	115		10	6
Private premises	..	186		91	27
Council properties	..	22		14	6
Schools	..	6		4	1
Factories	..	4		1	—
Farms	..	126		7	2

The usual annual treatment to sewers was carried out in Cinderford, Drybrook, Mitcheldean, Ruardean and Littledean.

Inspections and Visits.

Health	..	..	..	1,699
Housing	..	..	..	1,016
Food and Shops	..	..	..	160
Factories	..	..	..	28
Milk	..	..	..	53
Water	..	..	..	128
Caravans	..	..	..	217
Slaughterhouse	..	..	..	944
Drainage	..	..	..	384
Pests	..	..	..	55
Scavenging	..	..	..	217
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	40
				<hr/>
				4,941
				<hr/>

Meat Condemned.

34 Bovine heads	..	..	1,088 lbs.
48 Pigs heads	..	..	566 lbs.
Sheep and Bovine livers	..	..	2,477 lbs.
Lights	..	..	250 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	1,717	—	112	6,539	3,563	—
Number inspected	1,717	—	112	6,539	3,563	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses .. condemned ..	1	—	1	4	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	258	—	—	4	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.1	—	0.9	0.12	0.056	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	34	—	—	—	50	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	2.0	—	—	—	1.4	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. J. A. N. Butterworth, A.I.A.S., reports as follows:—

Water Supply Statistics.

The total quantity of water pumped during the year ended 31st December, 1957, from the Greenbottom Source amounted to some 177,517,000 gallons, a decrease of 8,777,000 gallons compared with the previous year's figures.

The bulk supply taken from the West Dean Rural District Council showed an increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons compared with 1956. The total quantities of water supplied from the three main sources amounted to:—

Greenbottom	..	177,517,000 gallons
West Dean R.D.C.		25,854,000 gallons
Blakeney	.. ..	11,000,000 gallons
		<hr/>
TOTAL	.. ..	214,371,000 gallons
		<hr/>

Total consumption, therefore, compared with 1956 was approximately the same.

Distribution.

During the year a large number of properties in the village of Mitcheldean were transferred from the Old Cement Works supply to the public water mains.

Approximately 100 properties were transferred by April and the Old Cement Works supply was abandoned.

Wigpool Common.

A supply was afforded to some 34 properties at Wigpool Common when the Council laid a small galvanised main to serve Stack-nedge Lodge, owned by the Forestry Commission. The Commission contributed to the cost of this scheme and most properties in the vicinity now receive adequate water supplies.

Longhope Supply.

Work started in October on the laying of water mains from Mitcheldean to serve parts of the village of Longhope, and it should be possible to begin connections to individual properties early in 1958.

New Connections to Mains.

During the year well over 200 connections were made to the Council's water mains.

Blaisdon.

The work of extending the water mains from Hinders Corner to Blaisdon was completed in October and some 24 properties are now receiving water supplied by Gloucester Corporation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

All sewage disposal works in the district have been well maintained throughout the year and there have been no complaints from the Rivers Board.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse collection in the Cinderford district is carried out by direct labour and existing arrangements appear to be most satisfactory. It will be necessary during the early part of 1958 to start disposing of refuse on a site adjacent to the present tip at Bilson which is rapidly becoming filled.

Yew Tree Brake Cemetery.

Since the Cemetery was made available on the 1st April, 1957, a total of 15 burials had taken place by the end of December.

Public Conveniences.

A new public convenience was erected at Lower High Street, Cinderford, during the year, and this brings the total throughout the district to 10. It is hoped to commence the building of another at Woodside Street in early 1958, and this will make it possible to vacate the present building in Market Street.

There are two other conveniences in Cinderford, one for men only and one for women only.

The Council also owns conveniences for both sexes in the following parishes—Blakeney, Ruspidge, Littledean, Ruardean, Mitcheldean and Drybrook.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY SUMMARY

Water Supply.

GREENBOTTOM SUPPLY. Of the fifteen samples taken from this source for bacteriological examination, eleven were satisfactory, two taken from Ruspidge and one each from Littledean and from Wigpool showed slight contamination.

SOUTHERN AREA SUPPLY. Of three samples taken two were satisfactory and one showed slight contamination.

MITCHELDEAN. A sample taken from the old Cement Works supply on the 27th March, showed gross contamination. This supply was discarded with the extension of the mains to this town.

BLAISDON. A sample from the old village supply showed gross contamination. The Gloucester Corporation mains were extended to serve this village, and two samples taken there of this new supply were satisfactory.

LONGHOPE. Of two samples taken from the Royal Springs housing estate, one was satisfactory, and one contaminated. A sample taken from the Rectory Meadow site (Hobbs Lane Supply) showed slight contamination. The extension of the mains to this village is anxiously awaited.

OLD GOLD MINE SUPPLY. A sample taken from this supply showed gross contamination.

DANCING GREEN. A sample taken from this supply showed slight contamination.

Caravan Site, Lake Lane, Churcham.

The Council had refused a licence under the Public Health Act to the owner of this site because the water supply was impure, showing evidence of serious pollution, the sanitary and drainage facilities were not adequate and the caravans were in a poor condition. In view of this the Council decided in January, 1956, to take action under the Public Health Act against the owner, and this action was heard before the Gloucester Magistrates in July. The owner promised to clear the site and at the end of the year this had been done.

Difficulty arose over accommodation for some of these families, it being quite unreasonable for the East Dean R.D.C. to be expected to build houses for families not connected with the District. Some of these families entered the site after the licence had been refused. Such a site is certain to attract people in difficulties from far and wide. Some of the parents have made mistakes but their position, and especially that of their children, is most unfortunate.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

At the weekend following Christmas the stream at Newham Bottom acquired a very foul odour. It was known that this stream takes water from the shaft at Ruardean Woodside into which a large number of carcasses of animals killed during the recent foot and mouth disease outbreak were dumped. The water appeared to contain floccules of adipocere which is a product of fat decomposition. The nuisance arose during the thaw of snow and abated in a few days.

Crump Meadow Gypsy Encampment.

The conditions at this camp continued to cause the Council concern. The Forestry Commission put into force a system of permits in order to effect some control, restricting the area used and the use of this encampment to those who have been accustomed to living there at least part of the year.

Housing.

The pressure on housing remains great. Those who do not work locally find Gloucester within easy daily travelling distance. It is very unfortunate that it has not been possible to build any houses for Slum Clearance. The condition of some of the houses in which people have to live is very poor indeed. Several Clearance Orders should be made i.e. 4—10 Parragate, Whitechapel Row, 3 houses at the lower part of High Street and Boilerhouse Row. At present, with the high rates of interest, it would be very expensive to build even with Slum Clearance Subsidy, and this would make the rents too high. Already some tenants leave Council houses because of the difficulty in paying rents, and some have to be turned out for non-payment. I am sorry to say that a large proportion of these are families that I had especially asked the Council to re-house because of health reasons, overcrowding, or the poor condition of the property in which they lived.

The position of evicted families is usually most unfortunate. The Welfare Authority is only able to provide accommodation for families whose eviction could not have been foreseen, and this accommodation is only temporary. The cost to the Country of accommodating the children of evicted families is high. This being so it appears to me that consideration should be given to the Welfare Authority taking over the management of a percentage of the Council's houses for families who have got into such difficulties.

Some of the properties with regard to which the Council accepts undertakings from the owners to do work to render fit are in such a poor condition that the standard that they can attain can only be low and it appears to me they would be better demolished.

WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health
Inspector: W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector: C. W. BEDDIS, M.A.P.H.I.
(commenced 1st August)

Rodent Operator and
Assistant to the Public
Health Inspector: E. NELMES

Statistics

Population=17,920 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1957).

Area=25,154 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=5,469.

Product of 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1957, was £439 5s. 7d.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1957, was £115,542

Number of Live Births=272. Number of Deaths= 205. Excess of Births over Deaths=67.

Birth Rate=15.2 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.05 this gives a corrected rate of 15.9.

Death Rate=11.4 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparatability factor of 1.02 this gives a corrected rate of 11.7.

Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	126	134	260	8	4	12	134	138	272
Still Births	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Deaths of infants under 1 year	6	2	8	—	—	—	6	2	8
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	6	2	8	—	—	—	6	2	8

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

PARISH OR WARD	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
WEST DEAN PARISH:				
Bream	2,408	735	631	5
Ellwood	475	145	96	1
Broadwell	1,752	535	437	15
Berry Hill	1,353	413	325	8
Milkwall	698	213	189	1
Pillowell	446	136	105	9
Whitcroft	649	198	172	6
Parkend	675	206	178	3
Yorkley	1,324	404	358	9
Viney Hill	406	124	79	4
<hr/>				
Total W.D. Parish ..	10,186	3,109	2,570	61
Coleford	3,447	1,052	937	25
English Bicknor ..	469	143	120	3
Lydbrook Ward ..	1,507	460	376	29
Joys Green Ward ..	1,022	312	296	8
Lydbrook Parish ..	(2,529)	(772)	(672)	(37)
Newland-Clearwell ..	705	215	125	5
Newland-Redbrook ..	364	111	149	—
Total Newland Parish	(1,069)	(326)	(274)	(5)
Staunton	220	67	64	2
<hr/>				
Total West Dean Rural District ..	17,920	5,469	4,637	133

Mr. E. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and of properties connected to the mains for the above table; I have apportioned the population of the Rural District as estimated by the Registrar General according to the number of dwellings.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. T. Bebb reports as follows:—

Housing.

(a) Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 12

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted that:

(a) the houses would cease to be used for human habitation Nil

(b) the houses would be rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority 1

(b) Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, amended by Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953, and Sections 26 and 28 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in lieu of Demolition Orders 5

(ii) Number of Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders made 3

In spite of the fact that 15 properties were made the subject of Demolition Orders and many others dealt with in 1956, became vacant, through rehousing due to the Slum Clearance programme, only four cottages were demolished during the year. The number of derelict condemned properties therefore increased still further.

The position at the end of the year compared with 1953 is shown in the following table:—

	Unoccupied		Occupied	
	1953	1957	1953	1957
(a) Houses subject to Demolition Orders	36	84	15	36
(b) Houses subject to Clearance Orders	44	27	7	4
(c) Houses subject to Undertakings	4	27	5	7
(d) Houses subject to Closing Orders	—	19	—	7

Concern has been felt, and expressed repeatedly, by the Council at this very serious increase, but so far the financial considerations involved in demolition work in default of owners has deterred them from taking action. Towards the end of the year however, it was resolved that approximately 20 of these properties, situated in conspicuous positions, be selected as a first step and action taken to enforce their demolition.

Slum Clearance.

The following is a report on the progress made in the Slum Clearance programme up to the end of 1957:—

1. Total number of houses proposed to be dealt with	..	300
2. Number dealt with since formulation of proposals	..	112
Number of tenants of these houses not yet rehoused	.. .. .	39
3. Houses improved or in process of improvement without formal action	.. .. .	21
4. Houses still to be dealt with	.. .. .	167

These cases be divided into:

(a) Void Houses	.. .. .	27
(b) Houses occupied by old people, single people or persons who for some reason or other are not considered suitable tenants for a normal Council house	..	75
(c) Houses awaiting action	.. .. .	65

It can be seen from these figures that although 167 properties have still to be dealt with this number does not represent the commitments of the Council in the erection of new Council houses—at least of the normal 2 or 3 bedroom type.

The figure of 75 cottages occupied principally by old people, but almost invariably by persons living alone, illustrates the very great need for the erection by the Council of the small bungalow or flatlet suitable for occupation by this type of tenant.

The Council have in fact made a start in tackling this problem by agreeing to the erection of 12 old people's bungalows in their 1958 programme.

Water Supply.

Sixty-eight samples of water were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:

Main Supply.

Source	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Springs serving Red-brook supply .. (Before chlorination)	17	14	3
Limekiln Pool Springs (Before chlorination)	6	5	1
Direct from taps on mains supply .. (Chlorinated water)	21	21	—

Other Sources.

Source	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Wells	14	9	5
Private supplies including reservoirs of collected roof water ..	7	3	4
Cannop Colliery System (Chlorinated)	3	3	—

Fifty-six existing properties and 55 new houses were connected to the Council's mains during the year. Mainly because of this the use of four more public wells was discontinued, and two were officially closed under Section 124 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Many private sources of supply also went out of use.

Ice Cream

Registration of Premises for the Sale, Storage or Manufacture of Ice Cream.

Number on register at beginning of 1957	..	..	..	66
Removed from register during year	..	..	..	1
Added to register	..	..	..	3
Total registered premises at end of year	..	..	..	68

There was a further increase this year again in the amount of pre-packed ice cream sold in the district. The one manufacturer of his own ice cream by the hot mix method discontinued manufacture whilst the four manufacturers of cold mix ice cream made less and less themselves and sold proportionately more and more pre-packed ice cream from one or other of the large manufacturing companies.

22 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for examination by the methylene blue test.

Results were as follows:—

GRADES:	I	II	III	IV
	20	1	1	—

Milk and Dairies

Registration of Persons Distributing Milk.

Number on register at beginning of 1957	..	..	..	16
Removed from register during year	..	..	..	1
Added to register	..	..	..	2
Total distributors at end of year	..	..	..	17

In addition to the 17 distributors operating from premises other than dairy farms there are 20 dairy farmers who distribute milk from their farm premises. Of these, 12 sell only milk produced by themselves, three supplement their requirements from outside sources, and five sell the whole of their production and buy back pasteurised milk in return.

Registration of Premises used as Dairies.

Three premises used as dairies were deleted from the register during the year, and one was added, making the present total of 4.

Licences Authorising the use of Special Designations were issued as follows:—

(a) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

(i) Dealers 16

(ii) Supplementary 7

(b) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

(i) Dealers 16

(ii) Supplementary 5

In addition 13 producer-retailers distribute T.T. milk produced at their own farms.

Sampling.

A total of 82 samples of milk was collected and submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Results were as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test				Phosphatase Test	
Raw Milk		Past. Milk		Past. Milk	
S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.
39	16	26	1	27	—

As a matter of routine all raw milks submitted to the Newport Laboratory are tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli by animal inoculation. Not one of the 55 samples submitted yielded a positive result.

No tests for the presence of *Brucella abortus* were carried out.

Meat and other Foods

Slaughterhouses.

The use of the one licensed slaughterhouse in the district was again negligible.

Each of the 14 heifers, 35 lambs, 10 pigs and 6 calves killed was inspected, and the amount of meat condemned very small.

Meat and Other Foods Inspection.

The following food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption at various food premises.

- 21 lbs. of Beef for bruising.
- 12 lbs. of Beef for injury and fibrosis.
- 5 lbs. of Beef for fat necrosis.
- 8 lbs. of Lamb for bruising.
- 200 lbs. of Pork (One carcase and offal) for fevered condition.

In addition to the above, 120 tins of assorted foodstuffs, and 6 tins of cooked ham totalling approximately 114 lbs. were condemned for various reasons.

General

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Seven licences to slaughter animals were granted under the Act, in 1957.

Caravan Sites.

22 caravan licences were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to use parcels of land for a total of 24 caravans.

Means of Escape in case of Fire.

2 Certificates for “Means of Escape in Case of Fire,” were issued.

Outworkers.

84 persons were notified by one factory in the district specialising in the manufacture of pins, hair grips, metal fasteners, etc., as being employed by them as outworkers.

Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide.

Premises licensed in 1956 for the keeping of petroleum spirit and calcium carbide were:—

Petroleum Spirit	59
Calcium Carbide	10

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of properties inspected	509
Number of properties found to be infested with rats	106
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	27
Number of infestations treated by	
(a) Operator	125
(b) By reference to A.E.C.	8

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. H. Parks, M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E., A.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

1. Water Supply.

(a) Rainfall—The total rainfall for the year ended 31st December, 1957, was 32.46 ins., and as will be seen on reference to the 1956 report was almost exactly as for that of the previous year. The total rainfall was again less than average.

There were no heavy storms during the year of sufficient magnitude to cause danger of run-off contamination, and the three driest months were April, May and June, with 0.05 ins., 1.90 ins. and 0.67 ins., respectively, as recorded at the Redbrook Pumping Station.

The wettest month was February, with a total rainfall for that month of 4.26 ins.

(b) Yield of Springs.—No difficulty has been experienced during the year in meeting the demand, which itself increases each year.

The lowest measured yield was in July, when the yield at Lydbrook was 840,000 gallons per day and at Redbrook Springs 200,000 gallons per day, with a further available 150,000 gallons per day from the borehole but which was not used. This makes a total minimum daily yield in 1957 of 1,190,000 gallons.

(c) Supply and Distribution:—

Year	West Dean R.D.C	East Dean R.D.C.	Total
1955	219,328,000	12,000,000	231,328,000
1956	217,428,000	18,100,000	235,528,000
1957	206,808,000	28,000,000	234,808,000

The foregoing comparative Schedule shows the total amount of water pumped from both Lydbrook and Redbrook sources of supply, and relating these figures to the yield as stated in the previous paragraph it will be seen that the district is more than well supplied with available water.

(d) The average daily consumption per head of population was as follows:—

1955—31.25 gallons

1956—31.00 gallons

1957—29.88 gallons

(e) Routine Sampling—During the year the Public Health Inspector has taken routine samples both of raw water from springs and of chlorinated water from consumers' taps, and in all but one instance proved to be quite satisfactory.

The one instance concerned was a sample from the raw water supplies at the Redbrook Pumping Station, and since this was derived from a series of springs it was then necessary to institute selective sampling which indicated one certain spring affected by surface water contamination. The average daily yield of this one spring was something less than 20,000 gallons, and it was therefore decided to cut out this one source of supply and isolate it.

(f) Bulk Supplies, East Dean R.D.C.—Bulk supplies have been maintained each day to the East Dean R.D.C. through the Eddy's Lane Reservoir from the Lydbrook Pumping Station, and a reference to paragraph (c) will show that the supplies to this Authority are increasing each year.

The peak demand from the East Dean R.D.C. was reached in September, 1957, when a total of 133,000 gallons per day were being supplied.

(g) Maintenance Works at Pumping Stations—The proximity of a heavily polluted stream at Lydbrook to the sources of supply and Pumping Station is a potential danger, and has to be carefully watched during times of storm. At the time the sources of supply were developed the bank of the stream was raised along the whole length of the Council's property, but immediately beyond the boundary the bank of the stream, though contained by a retaining wall, was still liable to be overflowed under extreme conditions. In view of this the Council have, during 1957, raised this wall by additional brickwork and connected it into the raised bank of the stream adjacent to the Council's property.

In addition to this work the opportunity has been taken to carry out turfing and planting at the Station and an alteration in the railings and gates at the entrance.

At the Redbrook Pumping Station it will be seen that only a comparatively small proportion of the total daily demand is abstracted, the bulk of the supply being met from the Lydbrook Pumping Station, and in view of this reduced work at the Redbrook Station it is now intended to change the transformer and switch gear as the present equipment is too big.

It may well be that with the inception of regional schemes of water supply, the Redbrook Pumping Station would be declared redundant, and so far as available supplies at Lydbrook are concerned, there would appear to be no difficulty in this, providing water were boosted from the distribution mains to the Staunton Reservoir and back-fed therefrom to the village of Redbrook.

(h) Waste Water Detection—During 1957 the Council purchased further equipment for this purpose and good use has been made of this additional means of tracing fractured mains, defective underground service pipes and so on.

The equipment is particularly useful in this area as the geological formation of the sub-stratas is liable to cause fractures of the mains with the escaping water having ready access to fissured rock or underground workings.

(i) Pressure Zones—It has long been felt desirable to define pressure zones within the Council's area of supply, as in certain parts of the district the pressure at the consumers' taps may be as high as 310lbs./square inch whilst at other parts of the district it may be as low as 40lbs./square inch, with of course intermediate zones between these two extremes.

There are parts of the district where Class "D" Cast Iron water mains laid many years ago are now working at a pressure higher than is desirable, but in order to overcome this it would require a comprehensive scheme of break pressure tanks and booster pumping stations, particularly in the Whitecroft, Pillowell, Parkend, Bicknor and Lydbrook areas. Unfortunately, in these same areas there is a considerable proportion of the mains of not more than 2 inch in diameter, and to reduce the pressures would quite certainly cause loss of water at the tap in many premises.

(j) Water Main Extensions—During the year the Council have laid new water mains at Oldcroft and have contracted to lay new mains at The Boarts, Lydbrook, and Hangerberry, Lydbrook. In addition to the above they have also agreed to the extension of mains for private development at Bowens Hill, Coleford.

The number of new connections to the Council's mains during the year was 111.

During 1957 the Council adopted new Byelaws under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them. These new Byelaws contain a clause specifically related to pipes of materials not otherwise mentioned, and do, therefore, include the modern practice of laying service pipes in polythene tubing.

I have previously mentioned the extremes of pressure within this Council's supply area and it is quite certain that even the heavy gauge polythene tubing would not be of a sufficient strength in those parts of the district where the pressure exceeds 225lbs./square inch. Similarly, in the intermediate pressure areas the normal gauge polythene tubing would not be strong enough to withstand a pressure of more than 125lbs./square inch.

This is liable to give rise to difficulties, and a constant watch has to be kept to ensure that either the right gauge tubing is used or prohibited entirely, according to the pressures appertaining to the locality.

(k) Limitation of Supplies from Small Diameter Mains—The worst case now remaining within this Council's supply area is the village of Newland, which is fed by a 2 inch main from Coleford for a distance of approximately two miles and which, during that distance, supplies domestic properties, a quarry and two dairy farms. The main difficulty, however, is that during this two miles the 2 inch main rises over higher land, the datum height of which is some 60ft. higher than Coleford, and consequently results in a considerable loss of pressure.

The Council are now actively considering the provision of a 12,000 gallon pressed steel service reservoir at this high point on the mains, so as to obviate the difficulty.

(l) Proposed Regrouping of Water Undertakings—There is so much that can be said about this matter which does not properly come within the scope of my duties that I must confine my remarks exclusively to the technical aspect, leaving matters of policy and finance severely alone.

On technical grounds I think there can be no question whatsoever about the undoubted advantages of a joint scheme, and I firmly believe that were it possible for the the three Forest Councils to work together on this matter, the scheme locally known as the Wye Scheme could be implemented and this ensure a satisfactory supply both in quality and quantity for all times for the Forest population.

It will be quite evident from the various matters previously referred to in my report such as small diameter mains, excessive pressures, booster pumping stations, storage reservoirs and the like that the Forest area should be considered as a whole, and not in reference to individual local government districts.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

(a) Coleford—There are now 710 properties connected to the Coleford main sewers and these form practically the whole of the premises in the Coleford area, with one small exception where an intervening culvert makes it well nigh impracticable for these properties to be connected.

Sewer maintenance has been carried out throughout the year with no undue difficulty.

At the Newland Disposal Works the disposal of sludge still remains a major problem, and will become increasingly more difficult when the new extensions are carried out in connection with the Royal Forest Factory discharge.

Referring to the sewage discharge from Carter's Royal Forest Factory, considerable difficulty has been experienced during the past year in locating multiple fractures on the outfall sewers which were causing a portion of the factory discharge to break out above ground and extensively foul a meadow. It appeared on final investigation that there had been excessively bad backfilling at the time the sewers were laid in the rocky sub-strata, and settlement of the backfilled material had fractured the glazed pipes in a number of places. After the defective portions of sewers, both foul and storm, were cut out and relaid the nuisance was abated.

During the year the partial treatment works at the Royal Forest Factory have been considerably extended and re-designed so that a much more satisfactory discharge is passed from these partial treatment works, and there is much less danger of fruit pulp and other solids being discharged into the Whitecliff Brook.

(b) Berry Hill Sewers—There are now some 100 properties connected to these sewers, which in turn discharge into the Coleford main sewers for treatment of sewage at the Newland Disposal Works. In addition to these properties there is also the new Junior School now connected to the sewers.

(c) Housing Site Disposal Works—There have been no undue maintenance difficulties on these various sites, and it has not been necessary to extend any of the existing disposal works. The disposal of sludge by cesspool emptying Contractor is working extremely well and has resulted in much cleaner filtering medium on the filter beds.

3. Housing.

(a) Council Houses—The work of maintenance is, of course, a constant endeavour and during 1957 the Council entered into contracts for the repainting of over 200 Council houses, and are now considering schemes of modernisation and improvement to pre-war Council houses by way of installation of hot water systems, W.C.s and water carriage systems.

During the year the Council built 20 Council houses, and there were 35 built privately.

Also during the year the Council made 46 Improvement Grants for the improvement and modernisation of private properties, and granted 94 applications for a Mortgage either to purchase property or to carry out improvement works without an Improvement Grant.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Mention was made in this section of the last Annual Report of the unsatisfactory system of operating only a two vehicle collection system, particularly if one of the vehicles had to be taken off the road for repairs. This has now been altered and the Council, having purchased two new vehicles and disposed of one, are operating a three vehicle collection system which has proved its worth both for the reasons stated and also during times when the roads are difficult because of heavy snowfalls or frozen, icy conditions.

The two refuse tips have been well maintained during the year, with no complaints whatsoever either of rats, cockroaches or untidiness.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY SUMMARY

Water Supply.

The table shows that 84.8% of the population are supplied by mains water by tap and another 2.4% by standpipe. There are still groups of houses noticeably at Cannop and at Joyford where the extension of the main is urgently needed.

Sewerage.

The extension of the Coleford sewer to the Broadwell area was commenced. Lydbrook and Bream badly need to be sewered.

Public Convenience.

The Council owns public conveniences at Bream, Coleford, Lydbrook and at Symonds Yat.

Housing.

The number of houses built since the war has reduced the pressure on housing but it is unfortunate that the number built last year was less than that in the preceding years.

There are still some families living in very bad conditions. Six families were living in condemned houses in a very bad state. Four families were living in Clearance Areas.

I made Representations that 27 houses were unfit and could not be made fit at reasonable expense, largely in connection with Slum Clearance.

Housing Progress.

I am grateful to Mr. A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, for the following information:—

PARISH	1957	Council Houses		Total
		Pre-War	Post-War including 1957	
Coleford ..	—	166	156	322
English Bicknor	—	8	16	24
Staunton ..	—	—	11	11
Newland ..	8	48	10	58
Lydbrook ..	—	68	93	161
West Dean ..	12	302	367	669
		20	592	653
				1,245

The 20 houses completed during 1957 were of the traditional type erected to rehouse families under the Council's Slum Clearance programme.

In addition to the above, the Council also own 21 hutments at Wynols Hill, Coleford, and 5 other houses all of which are being used as units of housing accommodation.

Private Houses.

35 houses and bungalows were completed during the year, making a total of 182 during the post-war period.

LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health: A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector: W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator and
Inspector: R. C. REED, A.R.I.P.H.H.

Statistics.

Population=12,290 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1957).

Area=25,544 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,627.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1957, was £436.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1957, was £109,893.

Number of Live Births=171. Number of Deaths=112. Excess of Births over Deaths=59.

Birth Rate=13.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.11 this gives a corrected rate of 15.4.

Death Rate=9.1 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.12 this gives a corrected rate of 10.2.

Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	76	89	165	5	1	6	81	90	171
Still Births	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
Deaths of infants under 1 year	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3

Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply.

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Lydney	5,183	1,636	1,547	—
Tidenham	2,687	848	608	10
St. Briavels	1,185	374	72	—
Woolaston	842	266	160	11
Aylburton	779	246	170	—
Hewelsfield	421	133	74	—
Alvington	393	124	97	3
TOTALS	11,490*	3,627	2,728	24

*This is 800 less than the Registrar General's estimate of 12,290 in order to allow for the personnel and apprentices at the Beachley Army Apprentices' School. The figures for the number of dwellings and properties connected to a Mains Water Supply were supplied by Mr. D. S. Bennett, A.R.V.A., the Rating Officer, and the population is the Registrar General's estimate apportioned according to the number of dwellings.

Housing Progress

I am grateful to Mr. H. I. Spratt for the following information:—

Council Houses completed:				
	1957	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War including 1957	Total
Lydney ..	21	235	293	528
Tidenham ..	11	50	144	194
St. Briavels ..	—	8	20	28
Aylburton ..	8	8	36	44
Woolaston ..	6	12	39	51
Hewelsfield ..	—	6	4	10
Alvington ..	—	14	17	31
	46	333	553	886

46 Reema Bungalows were completed during the year, 22 at Lydney, 8 at Aylburton, 6 at Woolaston and 10 at Sedbury.

One flat was completed at Tidenham and two at Lydney. Three of the houses purchased last year for improvements were completed and occupied during the latter part of this year.

Private Houses.

Lydney 20, St. Briavels 1, Tidenham 12, Woolaston 1, Stroait 1.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. W. M. Richards reports as follows:—

Housing Acts 1936—57.

Individual Unfit Houses (beyond repair at reasonable cost)						
Considered by Council	..	..	..	..	..	10
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	2
Undertakings accepted (a) not to use house for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) to render house fit				..	..	2
Consideration deferred	..	..	..	..	..	2

One undertaking to make a house fit given in the previous year was cancelled after work had been done by the owner.

One Closing Order under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 was cancelled after work had been done.

Defects were remedied by the owners in four houses after formal notice under the Public Health Act. In addition minor defects were remedied at seventeen houses by owners after consultation.

Houses demolished during the year:—8 at Factory Row in relation to which Demolition Orders had been made in the previous year and 3 at Hill Street and 6 at Newerne Street demolished voluntarily by the owners.

Clearance Area—Red Lion Court, Woodcroft (5 houses). The Minister confirmed the Order relating to this area without modification, there being no objection.

Moveable Dwellings Public Health Act, 1936—Secs. 268-69.

Number of visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Licences granted during the year:—							
(a) To use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings	..	..					0
(b) To use or station and use a Moveable Dwelling		..					2
(c) Renewal of licences	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
(d) Application for licence refused	..	..			..	..	—
(e) Licences cancelled (no application for renewal)	..	..					—
Number on Register:—							
Lydney							9
Woolaston							1
Hewelsfield							2
St. Briavels							1

Water Supply—Twelve sites are supplied by tap or standpipe, one from a Public Well.

Disinfection.

Number of premises disinfected:—Tuberculosis	..	..	4
Other diseases	..	..	12
Verminous	..	..	4
Total	..	..	20

Water Samples

Seventy-six samples were taken from various sources to the following laboratories:—

Public Health Laboratory, Newport	..	..	..	68
University of Bristol, Canynge Hall Bristol	..	..	..	6
City and County Laboratories (Ellis & Turner, Gloucester)				2

The sources were as follows:—

Boreholes	..	..	..	13
Piped supplies	..	..	..	52
Wells	..	..	..	6
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	3
Streams	..	..	..	2

Milk

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies not at farm	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—1954.

Licences granted by the County Council	..	..	..	1
Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation 'Sterilised' and 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk sold from The Creamery, Quay Street, Gloucester, and Sedbury Dairies Ltd.				14

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949—1954.

Licences granted by the Council to use the special designation 'Tuberculin Tested' Milk (Pasteurised)	10
---	----	----	----	----

Of the 46 samples taken from milk supplied to Sedbury Dairies Ltd., and in course of delivery that were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport, Mon., 48.4% did not conform to the standard of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

9 Producers-retailers distribute T.T. milk produced at their own farms.

Biological testing. 32 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination.

Animal inoculation tests on all specimens yielded negative results to tuberculosis.

There are 18 registered retailers in the district. Three reside outside the district. Nine retailers draw their milk supplies, Sterilised, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested, in bottles from The Creamery, Quay Street, Gloucester, and Sedbury Dairies Ltd., thus dispensing with the necessity of individual dairies.

Sedbury Dairies Ltd.

Number of Producers 39.

Average daily throughput of milk: 2,250 gallons, plus 208 gallons from C.W.S. Dairy, Chepstow.

Bottles: (daily average)—20,000.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947—52.

Premises Registered: 35.

Of these only two manufactured ice cream and these used the cold-mix method. The others sold prepacked ice cream.

Nineteen samples were submitted for Methylene Blue Test grading.

Results: Grade	I	II	III	IV
	17	2	0	0

Thirty-nine visits were made but no action found necessary in respect of the handling of ice cream or the condition of premises.

Shops Act, 1950

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Improvements to meet with the requirements of the above Act and Regulations were carried out at 16 premises.

Three new cafes were opened and one cafe and one shop owing to restricted accommodation were closed voluntarily by the owners.

Action in connection with three premises has been suspended for a limited period.

Meat Inspection

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering is carried out between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week, and it has been possible to maintain a 100 per cent. inspection of all food animals slaughtered.

During the year ended 31st December, 1957, the following animals have been slaughtered in the two licensed premises:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	176	—	12	1,021	231	—
Number inspected	176	—	12	1,021	231	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses .. condemned ..	—	—	—	1	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	18	—	—	5	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.2	—	—	0.6	2.6	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	0.6	—	—	—	0.9	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

It is pleasing to note that the percentage of meat which had to be condemned from Tuberculosis is progressively decreasing from year to year.

Amount of Meat and other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Bovine:	13	Livers	..	..	..	153 lbs.	
	4	Lungs	..	..	..	36 lbs.	
		Forequarter of Beef	..			266 lbs.	
		Beef	..	..	..	30 lbs.	Total 485 lbs.
Sheep:	1	Carcase	..	..	..	33 lbs.	
	1	Head and Pluck			..	8 lbs.	
	4	Livers	..	..	..	8 lbs.	Total 49 lbs.
Pigs:	1	Carcase	..	..	..	98 lbs.	
	1	Pluck	..	..	..	5 lbs.	
	2	Livers	..	..	..	5 lbs.	
	2	Heads	..	..	..	15 lbs.	
	2	Legs of Pork	..	..		34 lbs.	Total 157 lbs.
							Total 691 lbs.
		322 Tins of various foodstuffs					
		4½ stone of fish					
		14 lbs. Bacon					
		2—11 lbs. 3ozs. tins of Imported Ham					
		2—6 lbs. tins of Corned Beef					
		2—9 lbs. tins of Imported Ham					

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The Council in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, as amended by Section 3 of the 1954 Act, issued the following licences during the year:—

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	..	7
To slaughter and stun pigs only	.. .. .	17
To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs under supervision	.. .. .	3

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for year ending 31st December, 1957.

	Type of Property		
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All others including business premises
Number of properties inspected by Local Authority as a result of:—			
(a) Notification	—	14	10
(b) Survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	7	1041	571
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for other purposes)	—	51	93
Total inspections including re-inspections	9	1,101	772
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:—			
(a) Rats: Major	—	—	—
Minor	3	85	36
(b) Mice: Major	—	—	—
Minor	—	24	6
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ..	3	101	33
Number of Block Control schemes carried out	—	7	5

Sewers.

The sewer systems at Lydney and Sedbury were each treated twice during the year. The heaviest infestation was found in the older part of the Lydney system but treatments here gave good results.

Towards the end of the year experimental sewer treatments were carried out using Warfarin poison. The pattern of these treatments was based on the results of experimental work done by Bentley and Larthe of the Rodent Research Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Tolworth. Warfarin is a slow-acting poison and, unlike the acute poisons used in the past, needs to be left in position for considerably longer periods of time. Although Warfarin has definite advantages over acute poisons, the time factor has presented a problem because in sewers baits are subject to rapid growth of mould due to the high degree of humidity in sewer atmosphere.

The Warfarin bait used in the treatments was manufactured in accordance with the specification of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It contained 0.25% paranitrophenol as a preservative and also mineral oil and sugar.

On the whole, the results of the treatments were quite encouraging and, so far as could be ascertained, the paranitrophenol appeared to have given a good degree of preservation. It was obvious that this type of treatment is more economical in time and labour and facilitates more effective control in old sewer systems.

The advice and assistance given by the Divisional Rodent Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was greatly appreciated.

Refuse Tips.

These were inspected frequently and good control was maintained. Comparatively few infestations occurred.

Agricultural.

All infestations found on agricultural properties where no contract for rodent control existed were reported to the County Pests Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, whose co-operation in dealing with these was appreciated.

Insect Pests.

The number of fly and ant nuisances notified were less than average. This was probably due to the poor summer weather. A small number of 'Cluster Fly' (*Pollenia rudis*) infestations were cleared satisfactorily.

Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the Year 1957:—

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	558	34,634	—	—

Traffic Summary, 1957

Year	Vessels Inwards	Vessels outwards	Timber imported	Coal exported	Other Cargoes
1956	753	752	16,416	73,645	Nil
1957	558	553	14,410	49,439	Nil
Decrease	195	199	2,006	24,206	—

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1 Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	69	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	7	—	—
TOTAL	46	88	—	—

2 Cases in which defects were found:—

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness Overcrowding (S1) Unreasonable tem- perature (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventila- tion (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveni- ences (S.7) ..					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	3	1	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- workers).	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	3	—	5	—

During the Year:—

	Added	Deleted	Change
Factories	5	4	2
OUTWORKERS			No.
Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Lydney, Glos.			17

Means of Escape in case of Fire (Sec. 34)

Eleven Certificates were issued specifying in detail the means of escape provided; the number of persons employed or proposed to be employed in the Factories as a whole, and any explosive or highly inflammable material stored or used.

In the descriptive matter materials of construction and any dimensions which could be readily ascertained from the plan were stated as they were essential factors in determining the adequacy of means of escape.

This entailed a great deal of work, and I should like to thank the Gloucestershire Fire Service, Fire Prevention Department, for their advice and ready assistance, and owners of Factories for their co-operation in carrying out this essential work.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Forty-five licences were issued by the Council for the Storage of Petroleum Spirit.

Summary:—Filling Stations	..	14
Farms	.. ..	8
Factories	.. ..	11
Quarries	.. ..	4
Business premises	..	8

Home Office Circular No. 84/57

Fire Service Circular No. 19/1957

There were 15 premises where underground storage tanks had been installed for over 20 years.

At 7 premises underground tanks and pipelines were tested by subjecting each to an internal pressure of 10lbs. per square inch for a sufficient time to test their imperviousness.

At 2 other premises it was found necessary to carry out another method of testing, the underground tanks were dipped and sealed and a second dip carried out after 24 hours.

As a result of these tests one underground tank with a storage capacity of 2,000 gallons proved to be defective and not safe for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, and was dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Minor defects found in underground tanks at 4 other premises were remedied.

Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929

One premises was licensed for the keeping of carbide of calcium.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 50)

Two burials were undertaken by the Council during the year. One in the Parish of Tidenham and one in the Parish of Lydney.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence to keep a Pet Shop was granted during the year.

Licensed Premises

Sanitary accommodation at five premises was improved.

COMPLAINTS:—77 were received, the majority of these were dealt with by personal approach; to deal with the remainder it was found necessary to serve preliminary and statutory notices.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr. H. I. Spratt, M.I.Mun.,Eng., A.M.P.T.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows:—

The water supply for the district is now taken from four sources, the parish of Tidenham is within the statutory area of the Chepstow Water Company and is supplied by them. The remainder of the district is served by the Ferneyley Springs, Tufts Level and the boreholes at Rodmore.

Ferneyley Springs supply the parishes of Lydney, Aylburton and Woolaston from the reservoirs at Chapel Hill and Heavens Gate. Tufts Level is a gravity supply and water from the boreholes is pumped to Harthill reservoir to serve St. Briavels and Hewelsfield.

Yield from Ferneyley Springs	..	..	..	83,810,000
Amount utilised	..	..	..	61,800,000
Amount run to waste	..	..	..	22,010,000
Water used from Tufts Level	..	..	..	53,750,000

Tufts Level again provided part of the supply to the town, and no serious trouble was experienced, but to meet the increasing demand of industry, a new 6 inch main was laid from the Lydney Junction Station to the Industrial Estate. At the close of the year further efforts were in progress to re-drill the fall at Tufts Level in order to abstract greater quantities of water. By the completion of the works detailed below, it was found possible to reserve the Tufts Level supply for industry only, this has the advantage of making more water from this source available, and at the same time to give an improved water supply to the domestic consumers.

A small private supply provided water to the majority of the houses in Aylburton Village, but the housing estate and Lower Common are supplied from Ferneyley.

The Springs feeding the reservoir at Woolaston Common were diverted, and as a temporary measure water was fed across from the boreholes at Rodmore to supply Netherend and Woolaston Common. This has much improved the supply to these areas and the pressure is slightly higher. Tenders were invited for an extension of main to supply Woodside, the scheme includes a small booster station at Woolaston Common. At the end of the year, the approval of the Ministry was awaited.

The compact parts of the Tidenham parish are supplied by the Chepstow Water Company. The council houses at Stroath have a small piped supply from a spring. The Hewelsfield and Brockweir council houses are now connected to the new mains. At the close of the year work was in hand to extend the mains from Brockweir School to the Village. When this is completed, the spring at the Spout will be abandoned.

During this year very unsatisfactory progress was made with the first contract, but eventually it was possible to take over the Rodmore Pumping Station and the Harthill Reservoir, and connections to the mains were in progress during the latter months. Mains were completed in Lower Mesne, St. Briavels, but the break pressure tanks are not yet finished.

The 9 inch main from Ferneyley Pumping Station was completed together with the Chapel Hill Reservoir, and this part, including the new main to Lydney, was brought into use. This larger main has done much to stabilise the pressure.

The taking over of the new pumping plant, etc., has not been without its difficulties, and although water is being used from these new stations, there is still much work to be done. Without the full equipment working, an added strain has been placed on the Staff, and I should like to thank all my Staff engaged on the supply for their willing co-operation and support.

During 1957 the area of supply was greatly extended, but owing to the scattered development, houses are often times a long way from the mains. Efforts are being made to assist these people, but the high interest charges and the limitation of capital expenditure make the task much more difficult.

At the close of the year, instructions were given for investigations to proceed to find a scheme to supply the farms east of St. Briavels. It is hoped that with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture it will be possible to provide a supply to this area during the year.

When all the proposals are completed, the populated areas of the district will be covered, with the exception of Parkhill, Tidenham Chase and the western extremity of Woolaston Parish. All these areas are very scattered and will be extremely costly to supply, but without question an adequate and wholesome supply of water is urgently required.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SANITARY SUMMARY

Water Supply.

LYDNEY MAIN SUPPLY.

Ferneyley Supply. Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Three were reported on as satisfactory and one as showing slight contamination. A full chemical analysis was satisfactory.

Tufts Level Supply. Of four samples taken three showed slight contamination, one being satisfactory.

St. Briavels and Hewelsfield. The High Level Scheme commenced to operate during the year. A full chemical and bacteriological examination of the raw water was satisfactory.

The Barrell Well Supply in St. Briavels village was being discarded as connections were being made to the new main supply. This supply became tainted apparently by weed-killer during August. The Lower Meend stream which was used as a supply was tainted probably in the same way. This open stream is also liable to gross pollution from drainage and it was fortunate that mains water was on the way by the end of the year.

The extension of the mains to Brockweir School and Council Houses was most welcome as it replaced the polluted supply taken from Merricks Brook.

Aylburton Village Supply. Two samples were taken from each of the two receiving chambers of this small spring supply. In each case one was satisfactory and one showed slight contamination. Six samples were taken from the piped water, three of these were satisfactory and three showed slight contamination. This supply is managed by the Villagers.

A sample taken from Hollywell was satisfactory.

Woolaston. A sample from the Village Supply was reported on as contaminated. This inadequate and polluted supply was replaced by the mains supply during the year.

Samples from other sources in the Woolaston Parish were reported on as follows:—Woodside—contaminated, Spout Hill—satisfactory, Parkhill—slightly contaminated, Poors Common Well—slightly contaminated.

Sewerage.

Aylburton was sewered during the year. Lydney is the only other parish which is sewered. A revised scheme for St. Briavels Village was submitted to the Ministry. Permission was sought for the extension of the Aylburton Sewer to the Lower Common. Another request was made to the Ministry for permission to start the extension of the Lydney sewer to Allastone. The Alvington and Netherend Scheme remained in abeyance.

Public Conveniences.

Lydney alone has public conveniences. A convenience is required at Beachley and one at St. Briavels especially, but also in the other villages.

Swimming Pools.

Bathurst Swimming Pool. One sample was taken and this was satisfactory, free residual chlorine being 0.07 ppm and total residual chlorine 0.3 ppm.

This pool has been maintained in a very satisfactory condition, has been much used and is a great asset to the district.

Beachley Swimming Pool. A sample taken was bacteriologically satisfactory. This is filled with sea water at high tide.

Half Acre Cafe.

Eleven samples were taken during the year of the water supply at this Café. This is from a borehole made on the site. All these showed contamination, six showing gross faecal pollution.

A full chemical and bacteriological examination of the water was as follows: "this water in its present condition is totally unfit for human consumption. Both chemical and bacteriological examinations show evidence of drainage from some undesirable source. Everything points to the fact that the unsatisfactory condition of this water is due to the percolation of water from the ditch and/or septic tank through the fissured sandstone into the well."

The condition of the water supply to this Café was persistently brought to the attention of the Council. The Café is much used by road transport drivers and these are conditions in which a very widespread water-borne epidemic might arise.

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